

REMARKS

Claims 171-195 were pending in the present application prior to this Amendment, and claims 171-184 and 186 have been canceled herein. Claims 185 and 187-191 are therefore currently pending in this application.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 192-195 and the indication by the Examiner that claims 187-191 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which these claims depend. Claim 187 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 171 from which it depends, and claim 191 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 185 from which it depends. Claims 188-190 each depend from claim 187. In view of the foregoing, claims 187-191 are now believed to be in condition for allowance by the Examiner.

In addition, claim 185 was rejected only on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting in the Office Action dated September 19, 2007. A terminal disclaimer has therefore been submitted herewith in order to obviate this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 182 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This claim has been canceled herein, making this ground of rejection moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a)

Claims 171-184 and 186 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and/or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated or obvious. These claims have been canceled herein, making the foregoing grounds of rejection moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the foregoing rejections.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 171-180, 185, and 186 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 171-180 and 186 have been canceled herein, making this ground of rejection moot with respect to these claims. In addition, a terminal disclaimer is being submitted herewith in order to obviate this ground of rejection with respect to claim 185. In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 171-180, 185, and 186 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and consideration of the present application as amended herein. It is believed that all of the pending claims, claims 185 and 187-191, are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If, however, there remain any issues which can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this Amendment, including the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

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